



Number 868	Author Bruce W. Plowman	Date 7/13/04
	Title March 2004 Raccoon Road-kill Survey	

ABSTRACT:

Raccoon road-kill surveys are conducted in Indiana during the months of March, July and August to index regional and statewide raccoon population trends (Figure 1). Conservation Officers and Wildlife Section Biologists record the sex and age of all road-killed raccoons observed while conducting daily responsibilities. Below is the summary for the March 2004 raccoon road-kill survey.

A total of 1,002 raccoons was observed road-killed during 274,210 miles of travel observation for March 2004. The resulting statewide index of 37 road-kill raccoons per 10,000 miles (Table 1) equals that of the March 2003 index and remains at the highest levels recorded since the onset of the road-kill survey in 1966. Record post-harvest (March 2004) index levels of raccoon road-kills appear to be a carry over from record high pre-harvest (July/August 2003) levels. As expected with high raccoon population levels, reports of sick raccoons from sportsmen, landowners and biologists are common. Notable increases in the March 2004 index were observed in the north central and northwestern fur harvest regions whereas notable declines were observed in the northeastern and south central regions. Statewide, the March 2004 index suggests an elevated raccoon breeding population and that the raccoon population continues to flourish in Indiana.

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Table 1. Comparison of statewide and regional raccoon road-kill indices between March 2003 and March 2004 in Indiana.

District	2003				2004		
	No. of Miles	No. of Raccoon	No. Per 10,000 Miles		No. of Miles	No. of Raccoon	No. Per 10,000 Miles
NW	46,736	215	46		40,270	212	53
NE	42,612	170	40		43,407	146	34
NC	25,039	143	57		29,790	246	83
SW	43,872	118	27		40,090	98	24
SC	62,028	210	34		70,900	152	21
SE	49,358	150	30		49,753	148	30
Statewide	268,846	1,006	37		274,210	1,002	37

